

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Original) A polymeric resin composition which, when cross-linked, is effective to provide an insulation shield for power cable which has strip force of greater than 3 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius after being stored at 100 degrees Celsius for 2 weeks and an initial strip force of not greater than 24 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius, the polymeric resin composition comprising:

- (a) a copolymer of ethylene and an unsaturated ester selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters, acrylic acid esters, methacrylic acid esters and mixtures thereof;
- (b) nano-particles which have been contacted with a swelling agent; and
- (c) carbon black

wherein the copolymer, the nano-particles and the carbon black being in amounts which will provide a cross-linked insulation shield with a strip tension of greater than 3 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius after being stored at 100 degrees Celsius for 2 weeks and an initial strip force of not greater than 24 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The polymeric resin composition as recited in ~~claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the swelling agent is an onium ion.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Original) A polymeric resin composition which when cross-linked which is effective to provide an insulation shield for power cable which has strip tension of greater than 3 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius after being stored at 100 degrees Celsius for 2 weeks and an initial strip force of not greater than 24 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius., the polymeric resin composition comprising:

- (a) from 15 to 40 weight percent of a comonomer of ethylene and an unsaturated ester selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters, acrylic acid esters, methacrylic acid esters and mixtures thereof;
- (b) at least 1 weight percent of nano-particles which have been contacted with a swelling agent which includes an onium ion; and
- (c) from 10 to 50 weight percent of carbon black,

wherein the nano-particles and the carbon black being in amounts which will provide the insulation shield composition when cross-linked with a strip tension of greater than 3 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius after being stored at 100 degrees Celsius for 2 weeks and an initial strip force of not greater than 24 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) Power cable comprising:

- (a) an electrical conductor;
- (b) an insulation layer which surrounds the electrical conductor; and
- (c) an insulation shield layer which surrounds and is contiguous with the insulation layer, the insulation shield layer comprising a cross-linked composition made from a blend which comprises
  - (i) a copolymer of ethylene and an unsaturated ester selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters, acrylic acid esters, methacrylic acid esters and mixtures thereof;
  - (ii) nano-particles which have been contacted with a swelling agent which includes an onium ion; and
  - (iii) carbon black,

wherein the copolymer, the nano-particles and the carbon black being in amounts which will provide the insulation shield with a strip tension of greater than 3 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius after being stored at 100 degrees Celsius for 2 weeks and an initial strip force of not greater than 24 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Original) Power cable comprising:

- (a) an electrical conductor;
- (b) an insulation layer which surrounds the electrical conductor; and
- (c) an insulation shield layer which surrounds and is contiguous with the insulation layer, the insulation shield layer comprising a cross-linked composition made from a blend which comprises

- (i) from 15 to 40 weight percent of a comonomer of ethylene and an unsaturated ester selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters, acrylic acid esters, methacrylic acid esters and mixtures thereof;

- (ii) at least 1 weight percent of nano-particles which have been contacted with a swelling agent which includes an onium ion; and

- (iii) from 10 to 50 weight percent of carbon black,

wherein the nano-particles and the carbon black being in amounts which will provide the insulation shield with a strip tension of greater than 3 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius after being stored at 100 degrees Celsius for 2 weeks and an initial strip force of not greater than 24 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Original) A polymeric resin composition which, when cross-linked, is effective to provide an insulation shield for power cable, the polymeric resin composition comprising:

- (a) from 15 to 40 weight percent of a comonomer of ethylene and an unsaturated ester selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters, acrylic acid esters, methacrylic acid esters and mixtures thereof and less than 5 weight percent nitrile butadiene rubber;
- (b) at least 1 weight percent of nano-particles which have been contacted with a swelling agent which includes an onium ion; and
- (c) from 10 to 50 weight percent of carbon black.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The polymeric resin composition as recited in claims ~~18 or 19~~ 1, 3, 5, or 18 wherein the composition further includes a free radical cross-linker.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (Original) Power cable comprising:

- (a) an electrical conductor;
- (b) an insulation layer which surrounds the electrical conductor; and

(c) an insulation shield layer which surrounds and is contiguous with the insulation layer, the insulation shield layer comprising a cross-linked composition made from a blend which comprises

(i) from 15 to 40 weight percent of a comonomer of ethylene and an unsaturated ester selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters, acrylic acid esters, methacrylic acid esters and mixtures thereof and less than 5 weight percent nitrile butadiene rubber;

(ii) at least 1 weight percent of nano-particles which have been contacted with a swelling agent which includes an onium ion; and

(iii) from 10 to 50 weight percent of carbon black,

wherein the nano-particles and the carbon black being in amounts which will provide the insulation shield with a strip tension of greater than 3 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius after being stored at 100 degrees Celsius for 2 weeks and an initial strip force of not greater than 24 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Canceled).

29. (Canceled).

30. (Canceled).

31. (Original) A method for making an insulation shield for power cable, which shield has strip force of greater than 3 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius after being stored at 100 degrees Celsius for 2 weeks and an initial strip force of not greater than 24 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius, the method comprising blending:

(a) a copolymer of ethylene and an unsaturated ester selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters, acrylic acid esters, methacrylic acid esters and mixtures thereof;

(b) nano-particles which have been contacted with a swelling agent; and

(c) carbon black,  
wherein the blend having less than 5 weight percent nitrile butadiene rubber and less than 28 percent vinyl acetate and  
wherein the comonomer, the nano-particles and the carbon black being in amounts which will provide a cross-linked insulation shield with a strip tension of greater than 3 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius after being stored at 100 degrees Celsius for 2 weeks and an initial strip force of not greater than 24 pounds per half inch at 23 degrees Celsius.

32. (Canceled).